

From: Governor Cooper's Press Office [govpress@nc.gov]
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Subject: Weekly Newsletter: September 22, 2017



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR ROY COOPER

Highlights of the Week

Helping Communities Recover from Hurricane Matthew



On Thursday, Gov. Cooper traveled to Fair Bluff to thank students and staff of Columbus Career and College Academy (CCCA) for their volunteerism during and after Hurricane Matthew. Amid the devastation from Matthew, CCCA acted as a Red Cross emergency shelter, taking in neighbors affected by the hurricane. The governor also visited residents at a housing complex that recently reopened after being severely damaged in Hurricane Matthew.

"Help can't come quick enough for those who have been left homeless from a hurricane," Cooper said. "The recovery process is long and we still have a lot more work to do. We need to get people back into their former homes or into new, safer homes."

[Read more about the governor's hurricane recovery visit here.](#)

6 Million Meals for Meals on Wheels



On Wednesday, Gov. Cooper and First Lady Kristin Cooper delivered the 6 millionth meal with the Meals on Wheels program in Winston-Salem. The governor and first lady met with Rosalie Young, a Meals on Wheels recipient, and talked with her about the importance of the program to seniors across North Carolina. Gov. Cooper also recognized the hard work of the many volunteers who fight hunger statewide.

"These volunteers knock on people's doors and they visit them and deliver nutrition," Gov. Cooper said. "But they offer kindness and friendship and companionship and deliver a message on behalf of this community that we care about you."

[Read more about Gov. Cooper's Meals on Wheels visit here.](#)

Protecting Our Drinking Water



On Thursday, Gov. Cooper vetoed House Bill 56, arguing that the legislation only symbolically addresses unregulated, emerging contaminants in North Carolina's drinking water. HB 56 does not provide resources to state agencies whose mission is to protect drinking water from illegal chemicals. The bill also unduly rolls back environmental protections regarding landfills, river basins and beaches.

"This cynical legislation fails to address the concerns of families in the Cape Fear region and does nothing to protect drinking water statewide going forward," said Gov. Cooper.

[Read Gov. Cooper's full statement here.](#)

NC Joins U.S. Climate Alliance



This week, Gov. Cooper announced that North Carolina will join the U.S. Climate Alliance, a bipartisan coalition currently made of 15 states that are committed to reducing their share of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

"Clean air and a healthy environment are vital for a strong economy and a healthier future," Gov. Cooper said. "So much of North Carolina's economy relies on protecting our treasured natural resources, and I'm committed to maintaining the quality of their air we breathe for generations to come."

This is just the latest action taken by the Cooper Administration to help combat climate change. Gov. Cooper recently signed into law House Bill 589, Competitive Energy Solutions for North Carolina, which will roughly double North Carolina's solar generation over the next four years.

[Learn more about North Carolina's role in the U.S. Climate Alliance here.](#)

Wishing Livingstone College Students Well at Fall Convocation



On Friday, Gov. Cooper traveled to Salisbury to deliver a fall convocation address to students and faculty at Livingstone College, a historically black college. During his remarks, the governor encouraged students set intentions for the upcoming schoolyear and the years to follow.

"Living with purpose means something different for every person," Gov. Cooper said. "I'd like to share with you what living a life of purpose means to me, and then I'd like to challenge you to think about what it means to you."

Photo of the Week

Father, son on opposing sides of WFU-ASU game / B1

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

September 21, 2017 \$1.00

THURSDAY

www.journalnow.com



► Festival puts the diversity of Hispanic cultures on display / relish

Dewey's introducing line of six cookies for wholesale market / A4

Maria destroys homes, triggers flooding

Category 5 Hurricane knocks out power all across Puerto Rico

BY JEFFREY HARRIS

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
www.journalnow.com

Category 5 Hurricane knock out power all across Puerto Rico

Leaving about 100,000 people dead in its wake, Hurricane Maria has added to the mounting toll of deaths in Puerto Rico as a Category 4 hurricane with winds of 155 mph. It passed the island of Hispaniola with the strongest winds for 10 hours, then moved into the northern part of the island, where the second-most powerful storm in recorded history has deeper, more dangerous winds.



Local family awaits word on Maria's damage to home

BY RANDY DUGGAR

Winston-Salem Journal

Priscilla O'Laughlin and her family have lived through as much as Hurricane and Sandy, and now they are facing Hurricane Maria and Hurricane Irma again in their neighborhood.

"This is the latest storm... which is a welcome change for us," says O'Laughlin, who purchased her home in the neighborhood in 2010.

Winston-Salem Journal

Quake relief push begins

Local groups plan to send water, food and other vital aid

BY JEFFREY HARRIS

www.journalnow.com

Local churches and the American Red Cross are helping to coordinate relief efforts to help earthquake victims in Mexico.

A magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck central Mexico on Tuesday, killing at least 20 people. Police, firefighers and medical volunteers dug frantically through the rubble of collapsed houses, schools and apartment buildings Wednesday, looking for survivors.

Thursday's quake struck on the 23rd anniversary of the 1994 earthquake that killed about 10,000 people.

The Rev. Dennis DeGarmo, director of the United Christian

Employees Church in Winston-Salem, said he spoke with church leaders Wednesday about ways to help the earthquake's victims in Mexico. The church has already committed \$10,000 to relief efforts and is looking to raise more before the week is over, he said.

"It's very encouraging, but we still have a ways to go," he said. "I am not too sure that we will be successful, it's the right thing to do."

He said DeGarmo is calling on friends Thursday's quake to help raise money for the relief effort. "I am not sure what happened Sept. 7 is the reason's result," DeGarmo said. "That is a natural quake, but it is here to stay. We are going to have to stay involved and stay involved for a longer part of the week."

More inside

Winston-Salem Journal is free to its other readers.

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6 million meals



Cooper honors Senior Services' Meals on Wheels as program hits milestone

BY JEFFREY HARRIS

www.journalnow.com

Cooper and his wife, Ruth, delivered a million meals to the community before stopping at the home of Ruth's mother, Hills DeLo, who she had lived the past 17 years.

"I am very pleased that before we can say I'm special," said Ruth.

She has been serving meals for three years.

"I feel like I am making a difference," she said.

Cooper said the first year of the program, which

delivers meals to senior citizens in need of meals, was a success.

"We are still in the process of getting the word out to people to make the donation,"

Cooper said.

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Governor Roy Cooper  @NC_Governor · Sep 19
Gov. Cooper on [#GrahamCassidy](#) Health Care Legislation:



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR
ROY COOPER

The latest proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act may be even worse than previous proposals: raising premiums, weakening protections for people with pre-existing conditions, and slashing over \$1 billion from North Carolina's Medicaid program. North Carolina's middle-class families will be worse off if this passes.

Senate Republicans in Washington must work with Democrats to reach a bipartisan solution that expands health care coverage and makes it better.

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